

THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Department of Political Science
THE RESEARCH SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE:

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Telegrams "Natuniv" Canberra

REF. No.

28 October 1966

Dr Daniel Ellsberg,
The RAND Corporation,
1700 Main Street,
SANTA MONICA, California.

Dear Dan,

This is to introduce Mr H.G. Gelber of the Monash University, Clayton, Victoria, Australia. He is about to receive a doctorate from that University for an impressive thesis on Britain's and Australia's dealings with the European Economic Community. He has not spent many years in this country but has already made himself a considerable reputation as an analyst of and commentator upon international affairs. He is about to undertake a study trip through the United States to investigate problems of US-Australian strategic and foreign policy relationships as they are emerging and are likely to develop during the next fifteen years. His tentative itinerary is:

ex Melbourne 27.12.66; ex Cambridge, Massachusetts
21/22.1.67; ex Princeton 11/12.2.67;
ex Santa Monica 4/5.3.67 for return to Melbourne.

He may, however, be able to make some side trips of a brief nature earlier or later in his schedule. In any case he will doubtless be in touch with you to give you a more precise itinerary before those times.

I shall be most grateful if you can be of assistance to him in his investigations. I am sure that you will find Mr Gelber's own views on his topic of study and on other themes well worth hearing. Considerable interest, both popular and academic, in the shape of developing American-Australian relations is apparent in this country. A critical and objective appreciation of possibilities would be of great value to us.

Sincerely yours,

Arthur Burns

(Arthur Burns)
Reader in Political Science



Monash University

CLAYTON VICTORIA AUSTRALIA

TELEPHONE: 544 0611 TELEGRAMS: Monashuni Melbourne

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY - Dr. H.G. Gelber.

15th November, 1966

Dr. Daniel Ellsberg,
The RAND Corporation,
1700 Main Street,
SANTA MONICA, CALIFORNIA.

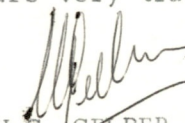
Dear Dr. Ellsberg,

I hope to be able to visit the United States during the next twelve months to further my research project on Australia in the context of United States strategy in the Indo-Pacific region. In the course of this study trip, would you allow me to call on you to discuss some of the questions involved? I enclose a note of introduction from Mr. Arthur Burns of the Australian National University. I understand that he may already have mentioned my name to you.

My project will be concerned with three main areas of problems. First, an analysis of the threats facing Australia, both theoretically and in terms of the practical possibilities open to potentially hostile powers now and in the foreseeable future. Secondly, the character and extent of the United States commitment to Australia, in the context of long-term American interests in this region. Thirdly, I hope to consider the problem of an Australian acquisition of nuclear weapons, from the point of view of Australian resources, from the point of view of its effects on the stability of the Indo-Pacific region, and from the point of view of its effects upon Australia's alliances. It is evident that the journey to the U.S. must be the essential preliminary to many aspects of my study.

Depending on those somewhat unpredictable olympians, the grant-dispensing authorities, two possibilities may perhaps be open to me. One would be a visit to the U.S. for eight to ten weeks at the beginning of 1967. It is sadly obvious that this time is much too short to explore the field adequately. But perhaps I can hope to chart, even in so brief a time, the framework of current American thinking in these fields. I could then go into the details at greater leisure after my return to Melbourne. The other possibility is that I might manage a more extended visit later in 1967. In either case, may I call on you? I should be very grateful to be allowed access to your thinking on these matters. If you are willing to see me, perhaps I could get into touch with you again as soon as I know when I am likely to be at Santa Monica.

Yours very truly,


H.G. GELBER.

Enc.

September 19, 1967

L- 17317

Dr. H. G. Gelber
Department of History
Monash University
Clayton Victoria
AUSTRALIA

Dear Dr. Gelber:

I am very embarrassed indeed to discover, upon returning to RAND and looking through the unanswered mail I have been carrying about, that such a ludicrously long interval has elapsed since your letter to me was written. Unfortunately, RAND forwarded your letter to an old address of mine at the Department of Defense where apparently it lay for some period before it was finally forwarded to me. After a long lag, it was re-forwarded to me in Vietnam, from which I have just returned after spending two years. It reached me there just as I was leaving in May (!) -- which is to say, too late for me to do you much good anyway -- and I have been carrying it throughout a long trip in Europe and consultations in Washington. I am especially embarrassed because of your association with my friend Arthur Burns, and I hope you will share with him my abject apologies.

Since I returned to the States only in mid-July, and to Santa Monica in mid-August, we should not have been able to get together in any case, if you followed your tentative schedule. However, I notice that you mention the possibility that your trip might be postponed until late 1967. Can it be that you have not, after all, arrived yet? If that is so, or if there is a chance of another, later, trip, I would be most anxious to have a discussion with you and help in any way that I can. And I would be interested to see any papers that you might produce.

I might mention that my work in Vietnam concerned both pacification and political development. I volunteered to accompany General Lansdale as a member of his team in August 1965, and in December 1966 I became special assistant to Deputy Ambassador Porter with responsibility for evaluating progress in pacification.

Dr. H. G. Gelber

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September 19, 1967

L-17317

I am currently engaged in a project that will keep me in Washington most of this fall, concerned with the evolution of our involvement in Vietnam. After November, I expect to be back in Santa Monica most of the time. I do hope that it will eventually be possible for us to get together, if you should be again in the United States.

Yours sincerely,

Daniel Ellsberg

DE:sv